

5.2.1 Kinematics of circular motion

Learning outcomes

Learners should be able to demonstrate and apply their knowledge and understanding of:

(a) the radian as a measure of angle

(b) period and frequency of an object in circular motion

(c) angular velocity ω , $\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T}$ or $\omega = 2\pi f$

M4.7

(6) M - Define the radian as a measure of angle

(7) S - Convert angle from degrees into radian and vice versa

(8) C - Apply the equation for angular velocity

Lesson 1. Angular velocity

STARTER: How many Olympic sports can you name where object/people move in a circuit path?

Key point

Extension: What do they all have in common in terms of force and motion?

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STARTER: Draw an object moving in a circular path. Label, with arrows

(a) centripetal force, F

(b) velocity, v

(c) acceleration, a

Key point

What are the criteria for constant acceleration circular motion?

Criteria for circular motion:

- Force must be perpendicular to velocity
- Resultant centripetal force acting towards centre of circle
- Centripetal acceleration towards centre of circle
- For constant acceleration, speed must be constant

How can an object moving in a circular path be accelerating when its speed is constant?

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Radians

The SI unit for angle is the radian. Although degrees is commonly used.

A radian is defined as: The angle subtended by a circular arc with length equal to the radius of a circle.

Q: How many degrees is 1 radian?

Key point

Figure 2 An angle of 1 radian

angle in radians = $\frac{\text{arc length}}{\text{radius}} = \frac{2\pi r}{r} = 2\pi$

If we consider 1 whole circle...

angle in radians = 2π

Therefore 360 degrees = 2π radians

To convert from degrees to radians, multiply by $\frac{2\pi}{360}$ or $\frac{\pi}{180}$.

To convert from radians to degrees, multiply by $\frac{360}{2\pi}$ or $\frac{180}{\pi}$.

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Lesson 1. Angular velocity

SAQ

2 a Convert the following angles from degrees into radians: 30° , 90° , 105° .

b Convert these angles from radians to degrees: 0.5 rad , 0.75 rad , $\pi \text{ rad}$, $\frac{\pi}{2} \text{ rad}$.

c Express the following angles as multiples of π radians: 30° , 120° , 270° , 720° .

Key point

Answer

a 0.52 rad , 1.57 rad , 1.83 rad

b 28.6° , 43.0° , 180° , 90°

c $\frac{\pi}{6} \text{ rad}$, $\frac{2\pi}{3} \text{ rad}$, $\frac{3\pi}{2} \text{ rad}$, $4\pi \text{ rad}$

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Angular velocity

The velocity of the cabins is different from velocity of part of the spokes because they are different distances from the centre.

A more convenient method to describe the movement is **angular velocity**.

angular velocity is defined as the rate of change of angle.

$\omega = \frac{\theta}{t}$

What are the units?

$\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T}$

If we consider a full circular rotation....

$T = \frac{1}{f}$

Using the equation for T , time period, angular velocity can be expressed as.....

$\omega = 2\pi f$

$f \text{ (Hz)}$

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ACTIVITY:

Try the circular motion questions 2 and 3.

Key point

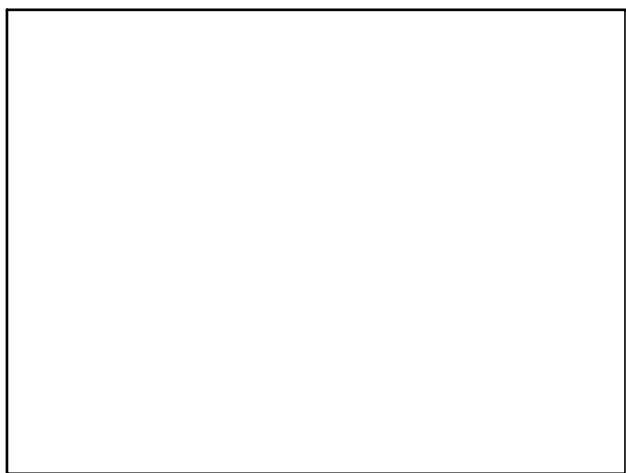
Extension: Lowe P66. Ex 8.1 8.2 8.3

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